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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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- 1.. In July 1954, while discussing East Germany's trade position with an engineer, the State Secretary for Machine Construction, Friedrich Schneider, said that his Ministry had been allotted an important assignment as part of the campaign to secure recognition for East Germany. This assignment was to raise the standard of East German engineering products (and in particular machine tools) up to that of the best Western makes within the shortest possible time, so that East Germany can compete with the West on the world market.
2. In order to implement this task, he said, a five-year plan is being worked out under the chairmanship of Professor Dr. Berthold of Dresden Technical Institute. Under this plan all the Machine Tool Planning and Designing Offices (Zentral Konstruktionbuero and Projektierungsbuero) will be reorganized and enlarged. As a preliminary, all possible information is being collected about the latest improvements in machine tool production in Western countries and as many technicians as can be spared are visiting West German and foreign trade fairs this year. The fair in Milan is regarded as the most important for this purpose. The reorganization is to go into effect in 1955.

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